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Maguire

No. 47.

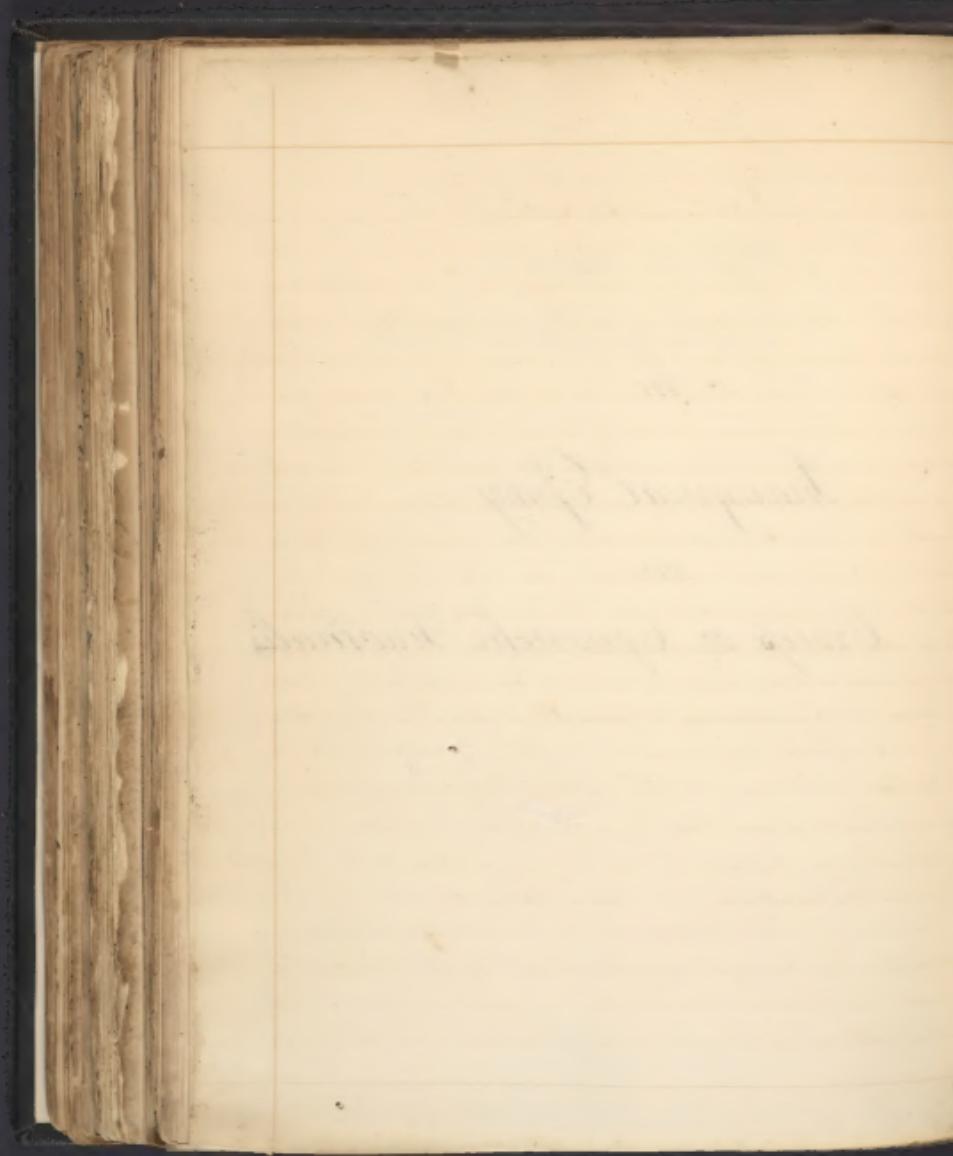
# 11

Stephen Harris  
admitted March 18. 1819

1880. VIII.

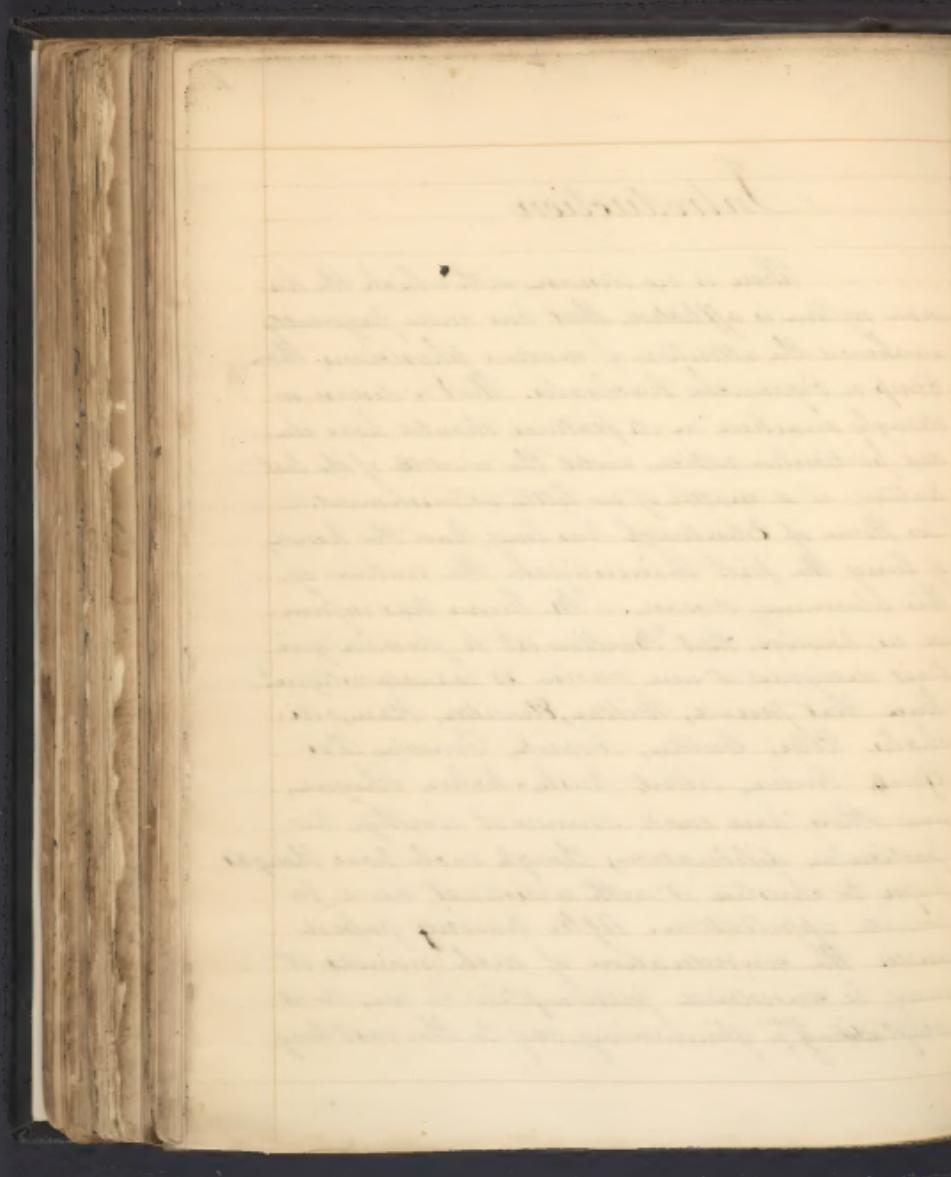
W. W. And the Wind.

In  
Inaugural Essay  
on  
Croup or Cynanche Trachealis



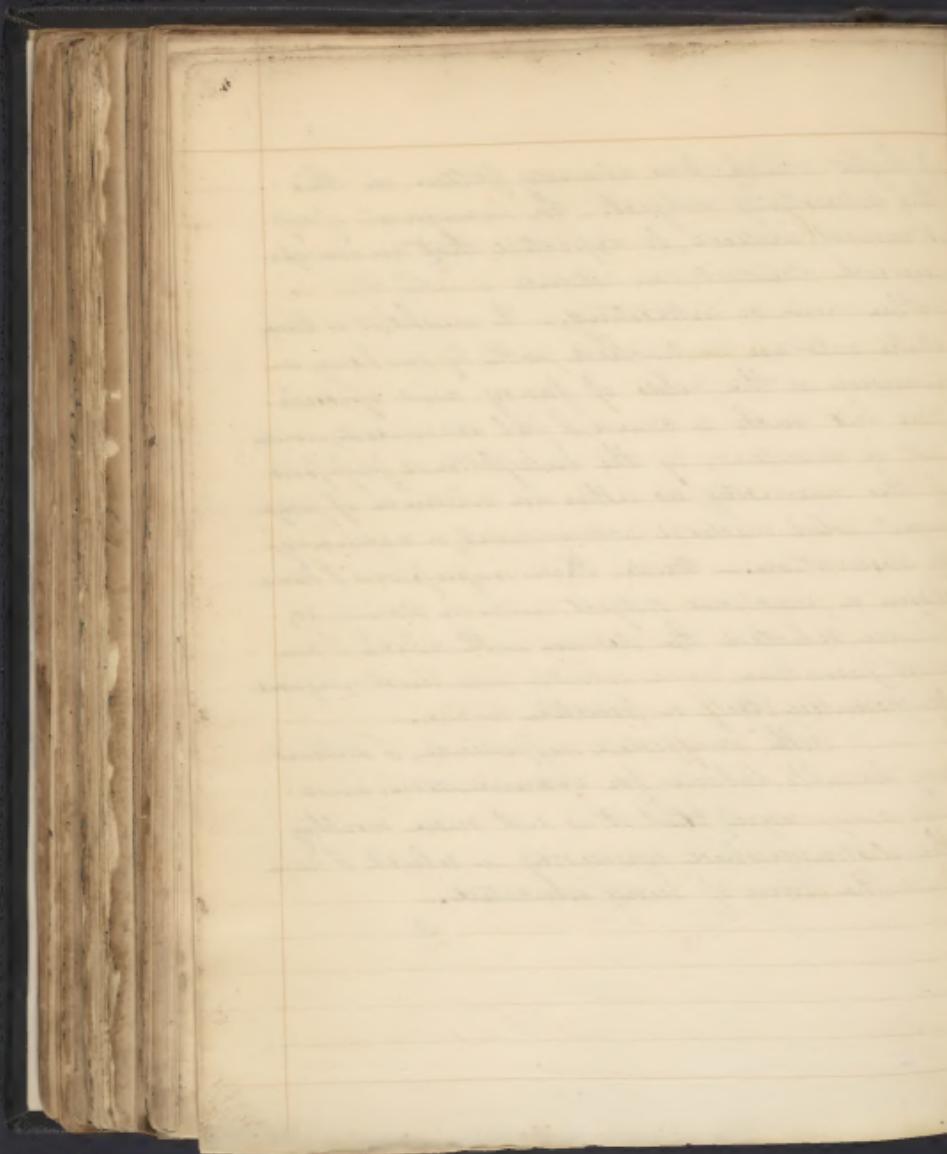
## Introduction

There is no disease, with which the human system is afflicted, that has more frequently awakened the attention of modern physicians, than Croup or Diphylleia Hæmialis. That a disease, so strongly marked in its features, should have elicited particular notice, until the middle of the last century, is a matter of no little astonishment.— Dr Home of Edinburgh has long had the honor, of being the first to investigate the nature of this alarming disease.— Mr Farine has informed us, however, that "Baillot est le premier qui l'ait designée d'une précise et caractéristique." Since that period, Millar, Etienne, Han, Michalis, Eller, Cullen, Frank, Donviv, Des Ospars, Farine, Albit, Rush, Achier, Cheyne, and others, have each deemed it worthy, his particular deliberation; though each have thought proper, to christen it with a distinct and favorite appellation. After having passed under the consideration of such minds, it may be considered presumption in me, to attempt adding <sup>one</sup> glimmering ray to the vast body



of light, which has already fallen on this  
this interesting subject. - In inaugural orays,  
it cannot, indeed, be expected, that an inexperienced student, can adduce much, that is  
either new, or interesting. - He might, it is true,  
strike into an untried path, by making an  
excursion in the fields of fancy and speculation,  
but such a course, I feel convinced, would  
not be considered, by the enlightened professors  
of this university, as either an evidence of judg-  
ment, solid medical acquirement, or accuracy  
of observation. - Under these impressions I have  
chosen a practical subject, and in doing so,  
I have selected the disease with which I am  
most familiar, and which has most frequently  
presented itself in practice to me. -

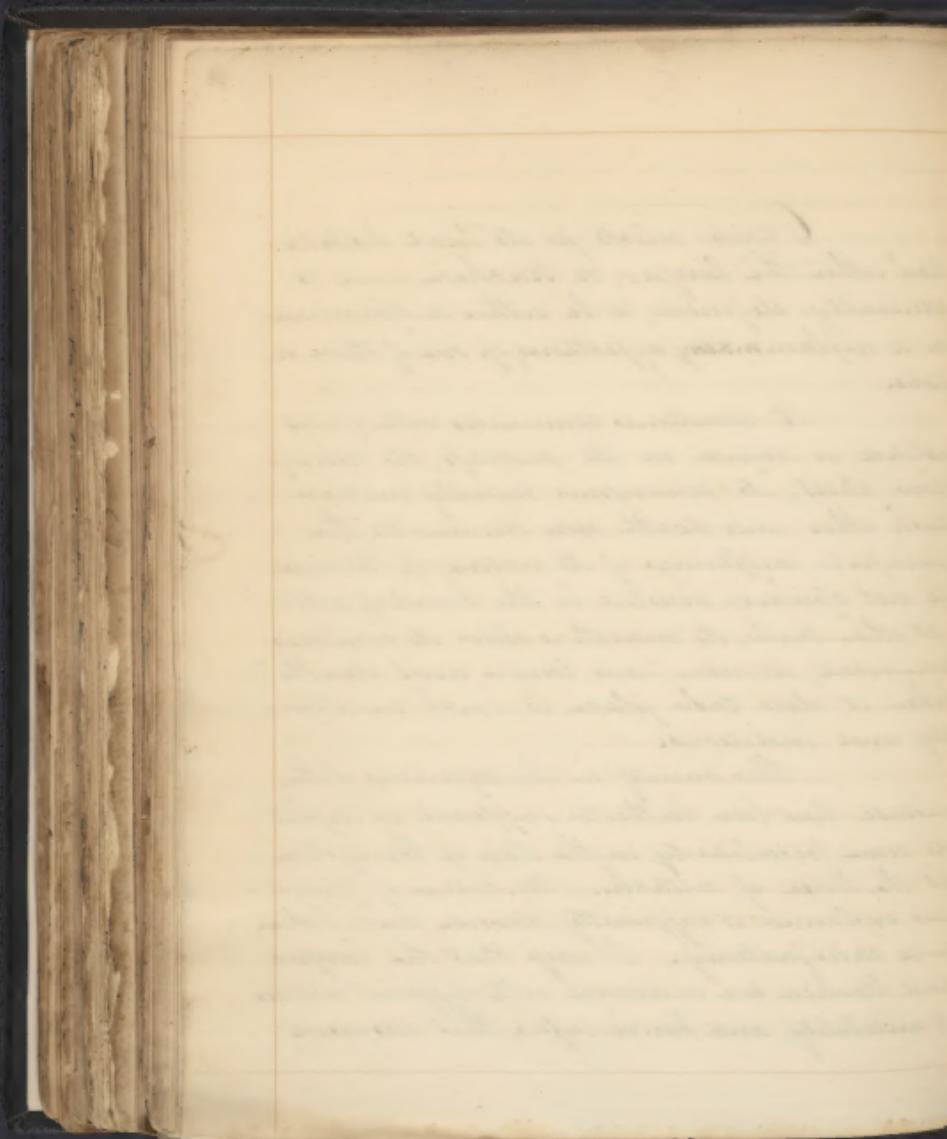
With unaffected diffidence, I submit  
my humble labours for examination, and  
can only regret, that it is not more worthy  
the distinguished university in which I have  
had the honor of being educated. -



Croup, selects for its "local habitation" either the larynx, or trachea, and is generally defined, to be either a spasmodic or inflammatory affection of one of those organs.

It sometimes commences with great violence, is rapid in its progress, its remissions short, its paroxysms rapidly succeed each other, and death soon terminates the painful sufferings of its victim, if its course be not speedily arrested, by the hand of art.—At other times, its march is slow, its symptoms equivocal, its remissions longer, and death, when it does take place, is much more tamely, and insidiously.

This variety in the symptoms of the disease, has been hitherto supposed to depend on some peculiarity in the state of the system, or the time of attack.—M. Kirine of Geneva, has explained it differently, however, and I think, more satisfactorily.—He says that the larynx and trachea are endowed with different degrees of irritability, and hence infers, that diseases

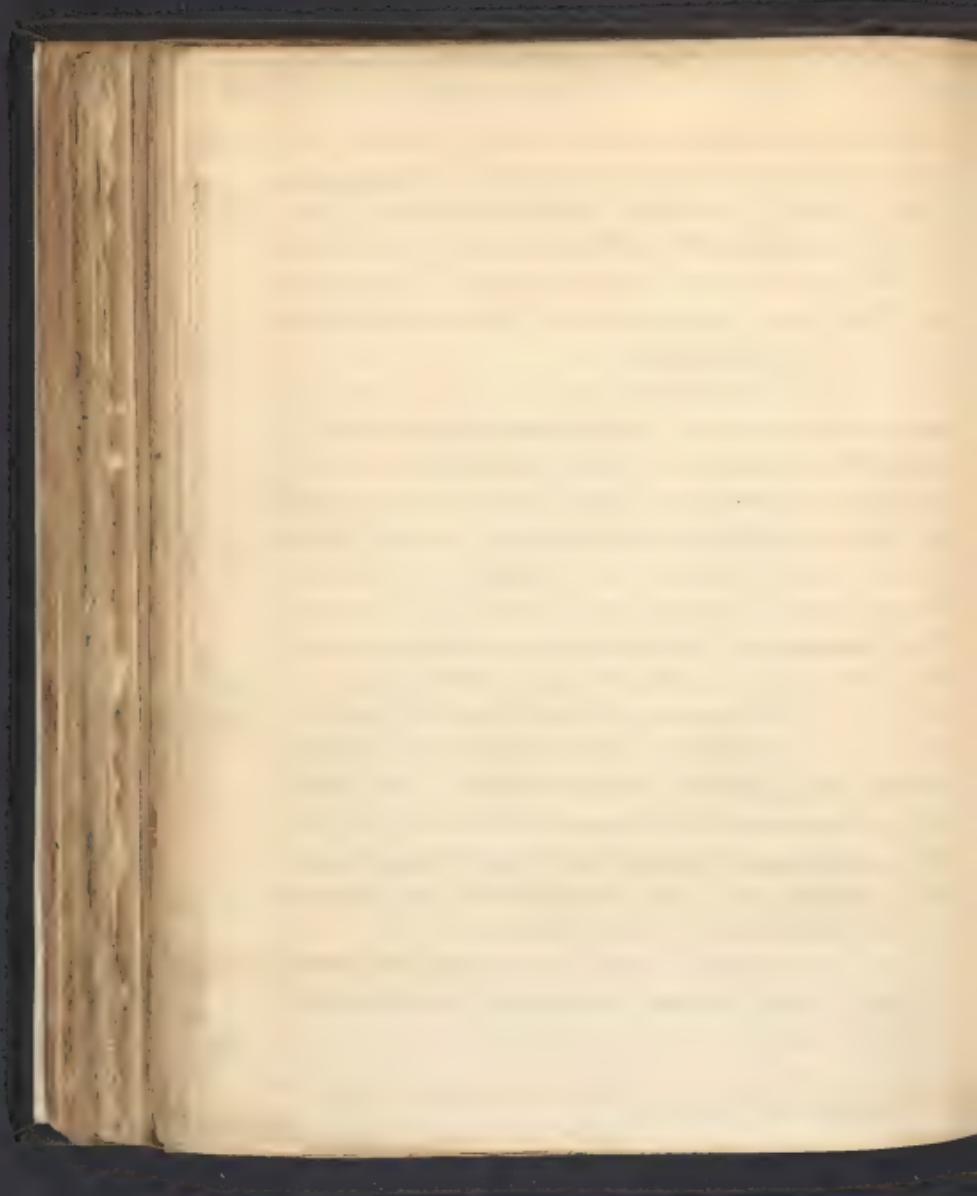


affections of those organs, must be characterized by very opposite symptoms. — By thus attending to the essentia character of the disease, he was enabled to discover its precise location. I need not say, that in a practical point of view this knowledge is very interesting.

The ordinary symptoms of the disease are a hoarse cough, a smothering and whistling respiration, a full and frequent pulse, a swelling and discoloration of the face, and an ophtalmia, which appears to be the effect of a sort of compression or contraction of the lungs. — These symptoms appear in paroxysms, and these, successive, increase in frequency, in duration and in intensity as the disease advances.

It commonly attacks in the night and during sleep. — It occasionally appears however, indifferently at all hours of the day. The interval, which occurs between the first paroxysms, frequently affords a complete remission, but by degrees the paroxysms become less sensible and at last scarcely perceptible.

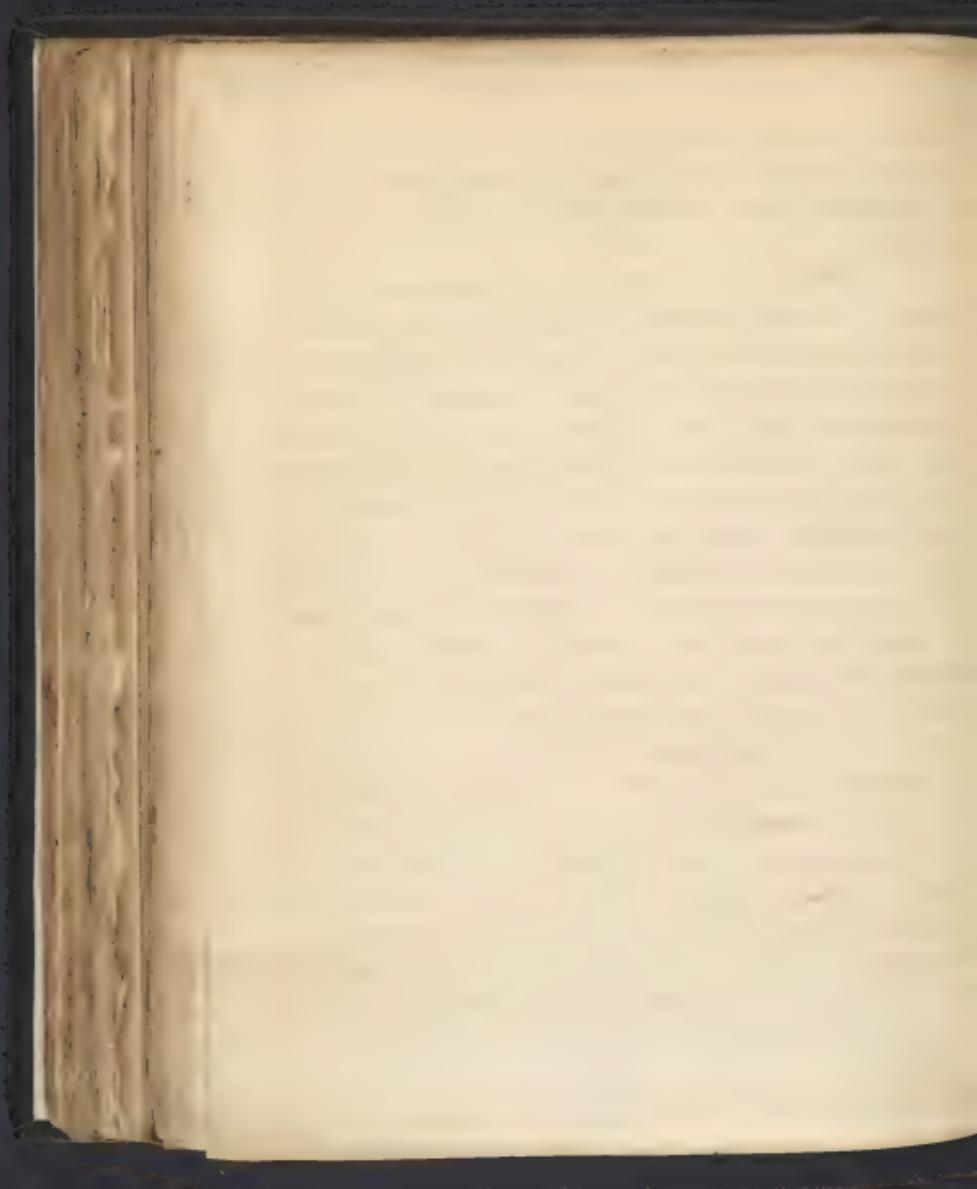
One of the most prominent characteristics of this disease, is a peculiar alteration in the voice of the voice; which has been com-



force, by turns, to the cry of a young cock, or of an irritated hen, and to the croaking of some animals.

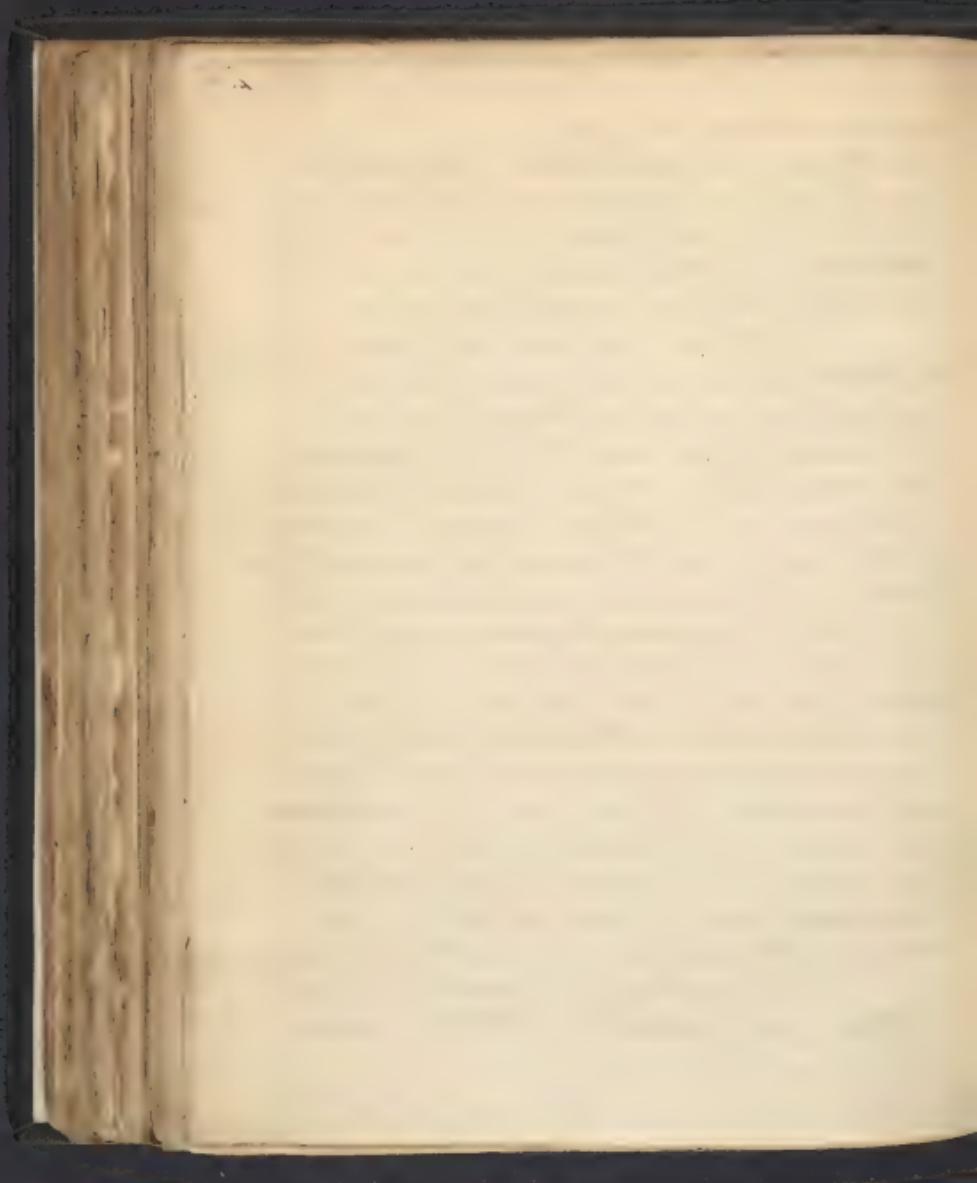
When respiration is very difficult, the pulse is scarce, small, violent, and sometimes intermittent; the heart is agitated with violence, and with irregular bounds; the carotid arteries beat with great force. The regular veins are swelled and extended. - The face at first flushed, becomes by turns, pale, livid, and bluish. The eyes seem to project in their orbits, a cold and clammy sweat covers the head, the patient's strength is prostrated, and at one moment, a frightful shivering steals over his senses, the next, he is aware, and by the most painful sense of stagnation.

The true cause of this extraordinary difficulty of respiration is a tumor of the larynx, produced either by inflammation of the mucous membrane of that organ, or from effusion of coagulated lymph, on its internal surfaces. Sometimes this lump either by its quantity, consistence, or by the membranous film which it covers, forms an obstruction to the passage of air, purely mechanical. - Such cases however



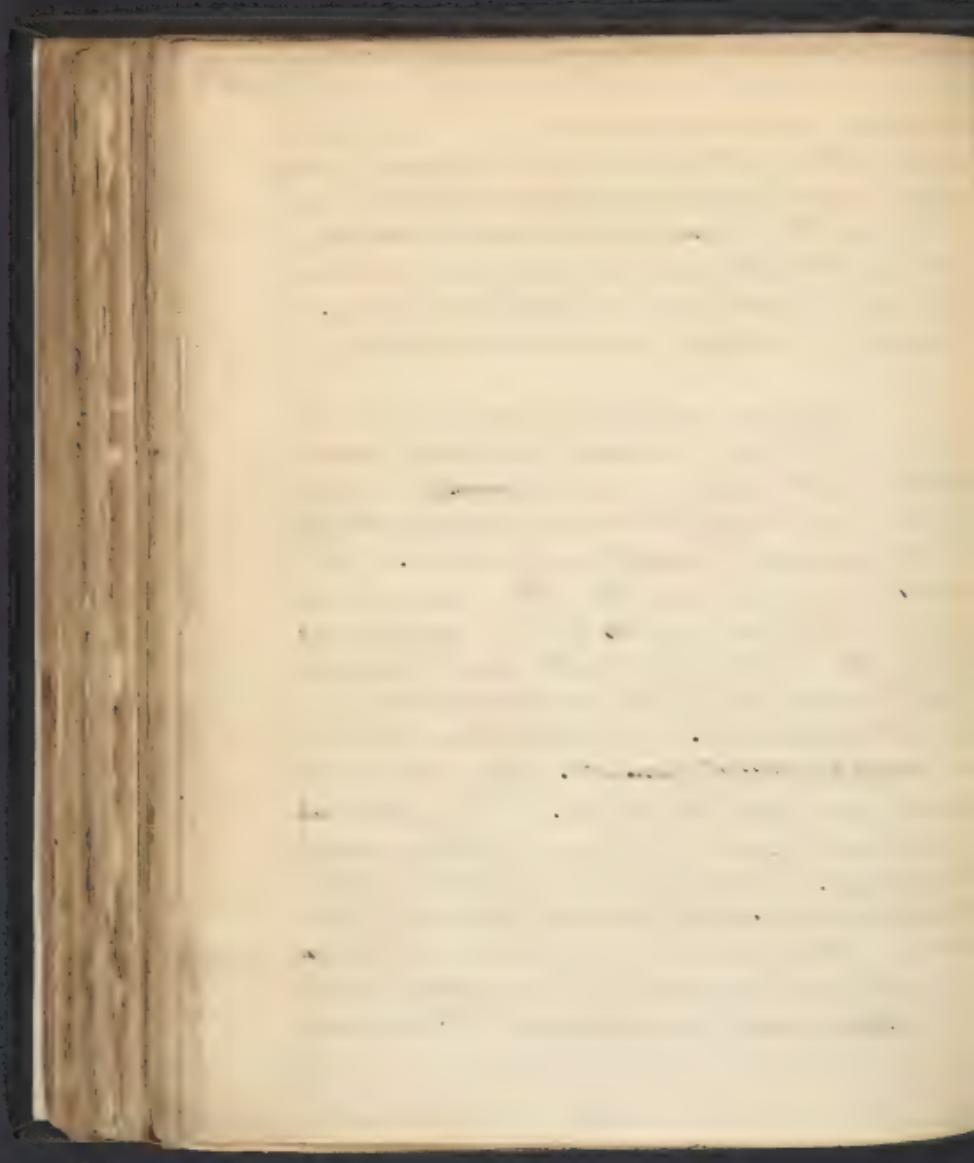
are very rare, as opisthotonos alone, is the ordinary cause of difficult respiration. — This is not a vain hypothesis, since the most eminent, in the worst forms of the disease, prove that it could not so readily arise from any other cause. —

That there is a membrane formed in the trachea of croupae patients, is proved, by the most ample, and respectable testimonials. — M. Thiene of Geneva, and M. Albert of Bremen, have each in the course of a long practice, made a vast number of dissections, and in a majority of cases have found this membranaceous substance. Dr. Bush, Chapman, Reeder, with many other respectable physicians of our own country, have also borne witness of its existence. — I am not induced to affirm, the peculiar mode of action, which takes place in the actures of the trachea, to form this extraneous body. — Much ingenious speculation, has been used in explanation of it, but none I think satisfactory. — In a practical point of view however, it is of but little consequence, since it will afford the physician very little assistance in effecting a cure. — The duration of this disease is very variable. — if it be attached at the commence-



ment, with suitable remedies, it commonly yields without much difficulty; but if it be abandoned to itself, or the physician be called in too late, it may either carry off the patient in a few hours, or it may be prolonged even to the tenth day. Examples of a longer duration are extremely rare.

Young children are commonly the subjects of the croup, because of the great predisposition at that age, to inflammatory attacks, and to eruptive affections; complaints with which this disease is so frequently complicated. — M. Albert has remarked that this disease occurs rarely in the first months of life; very frequently from the first to the seventh year; less frequently from the seventh to twelfth and very seldom beyond the last age. — Even adults are not however entirely exempt from it. — This author cites several examples of this kind. — The inflammatory Angina, according to him, is nothing more than croup modified by force of inflammation, and by a change which takes place in the condition of the organs. — Furthermore the croup of adults, however violent it may appear, is never so dangerous as in children. — To account

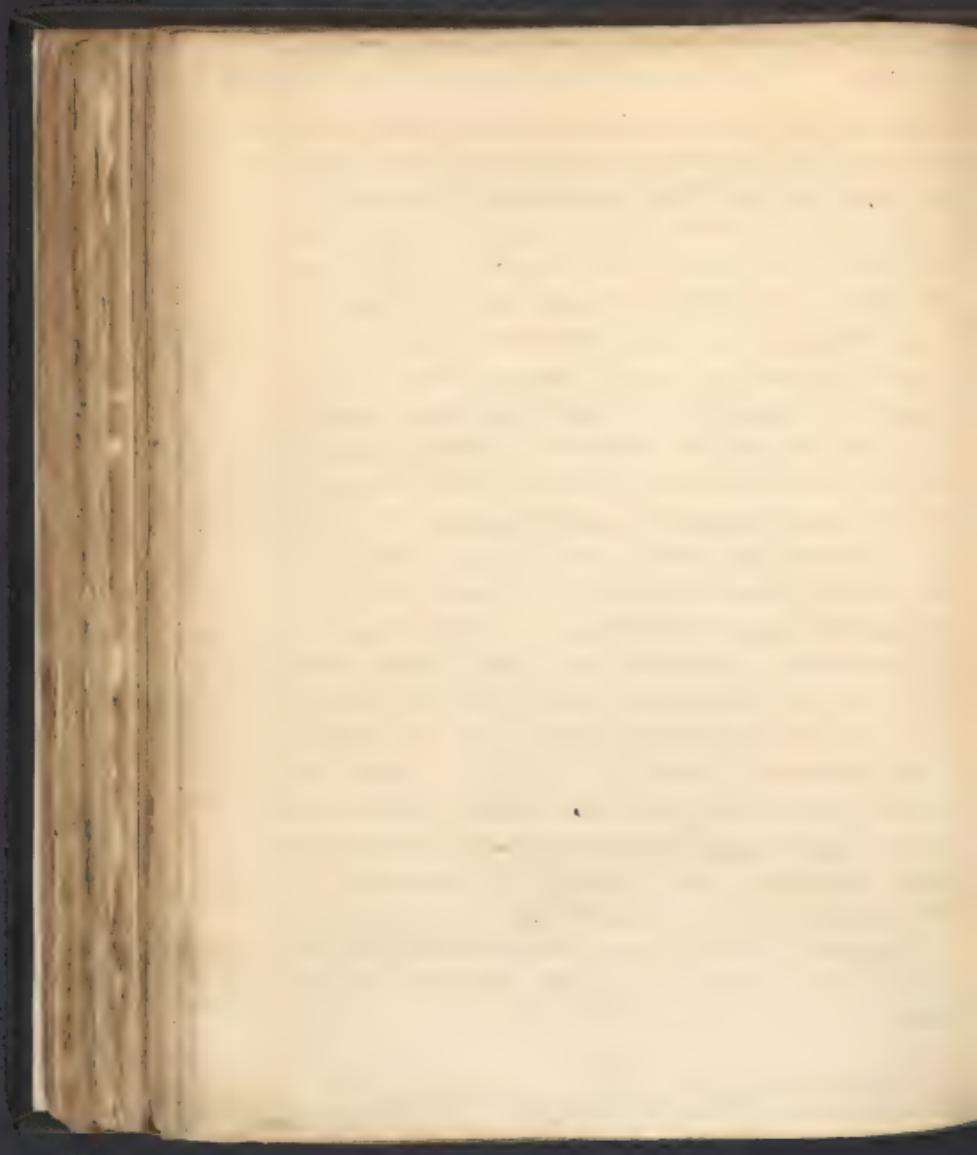


in which, the author adduces the following reasons: the first is, that in adulta the secretion of lymph is much less abundant; the second, that the irritability of the sanguine is less; hence, thus the dimensions of the vessels and lymph are more considerable.

This author has also observed that the disease more frequently attacks boys than girls, and hence infers, that at that period of life, the larynx and trachea are not of the same degree of development in both sexes.

Although I am not prepared to say Mr. Abbott's speculations are correct, still I think they carry with them much probability, and may conduce, perhaps to throw some light on the true character of his disease.

Temperature, seasons, places, age, sex, and habitude of body, have all an influence in the production of scrofula. - Cold and humidity, conduce much to the development of this disease. - It occurs most frequently in autumn, in the winter, and early in the spring, and commonly reigns in low countries surrounded by moors. This either in the vicinity of lakes, or large rivers. -

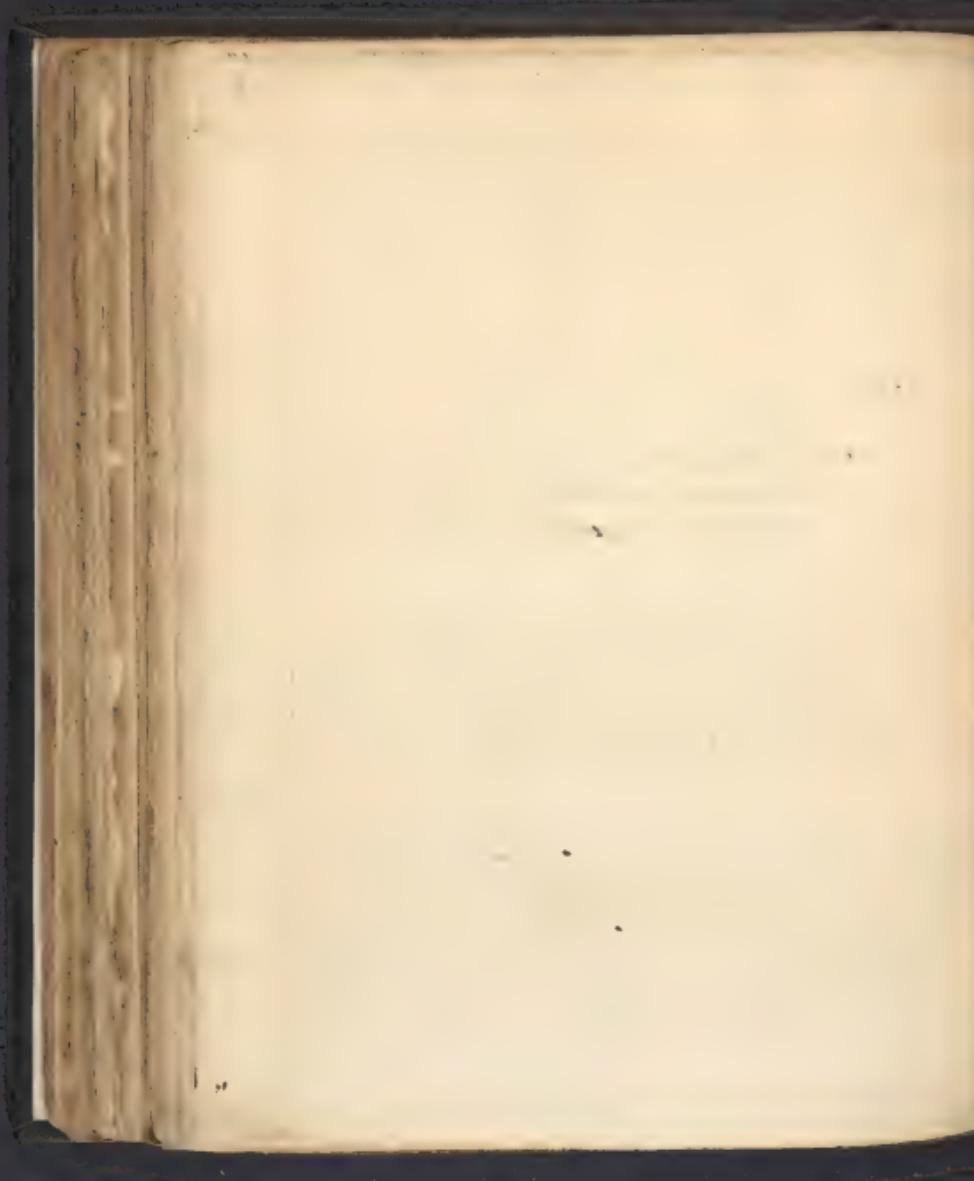


Croup is a very prevalent disease on our Atlantic coast, occasioned, no doubt, by the humidity which is constantly escaping from the ocean. Mr. Abbott has justly considered Florida to have fallen into a dry; ever, when he exanimates at. tributed its prevalence on the sea coast, to the invigorating action of the saline particles which were diffused in the surrounding atmosphere. -

All physicians admit that cholera is due to the croup; and I have already given my opinion of the observing Abbott, with regard to sex. -

There is a continued predisposition in some constitutions to croupful affections. While, however, I feel convinced of the existence of this constitutional peculiarity, George is myself totally unable to throw the least light on its nature. -

To these general causes, which favour the production of croup, I will add some that are particular, such as sudden transitions from heat to cold, the unadvisable custom which has, for sometime existed, of cloathing children too tightly, and of exposing their hearts and lungs naked, together with damp rooms, and the



were the inspiration of many, were evidently so  
powerful. The visit was much more seen & studied  
of he last disease--

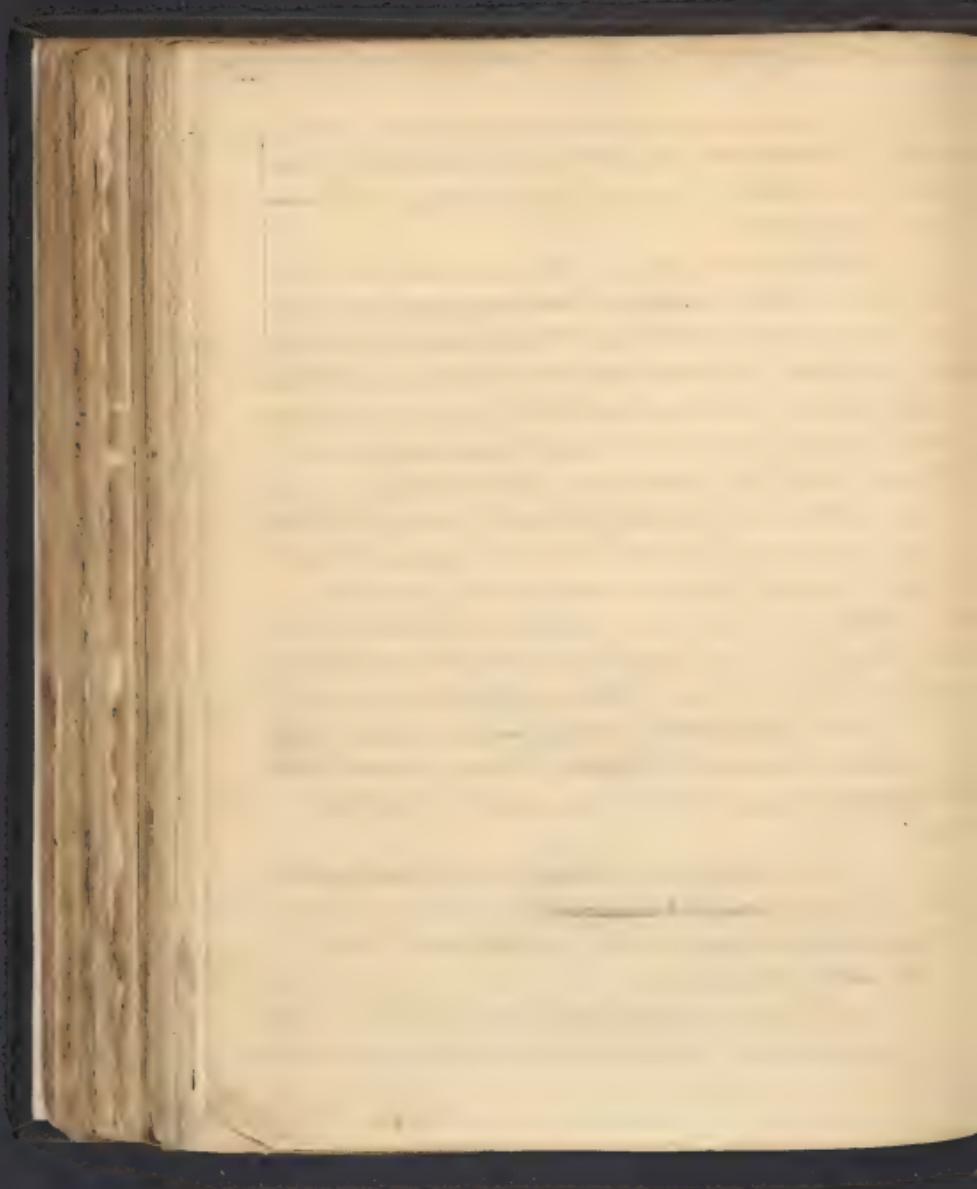
The vesicle, ~~which~~ <sup>was</sup> constantly associated with  
small pustules, vesicles, scirrhous, ingesta; and a  
cure, from each of these symptoms an inference,  
which modifies its character and regimen. -- though  
I vocalize them with the first impressions of  
the disease distinctly, yet it more <sup>curiously</sup> evanesces  
itself about the period of dissection.

When connected with vesicles, it shuns  
itself at an early period of the disease, and  
commonly disappears, as soon as the eruption  
takes place. -- There are many instances, howev.  
er, in which <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>it</sup> has continued through  
out the whole course of this affectionate disease.

M. Robert has seen <sup>one</sup> ~~two~~ <sup>cases</sup> ~~cases~~ with  
the vaccine disease, though I have never heard  
of its appearing in this, <sup>but</sup> in the United  
States. --

Having now closed, my description  
of the history ~~and~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~character~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~this~~ <sup>the</sup> disease  
is <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup>  
proceed to a more important part,  
i.e. its treatment.

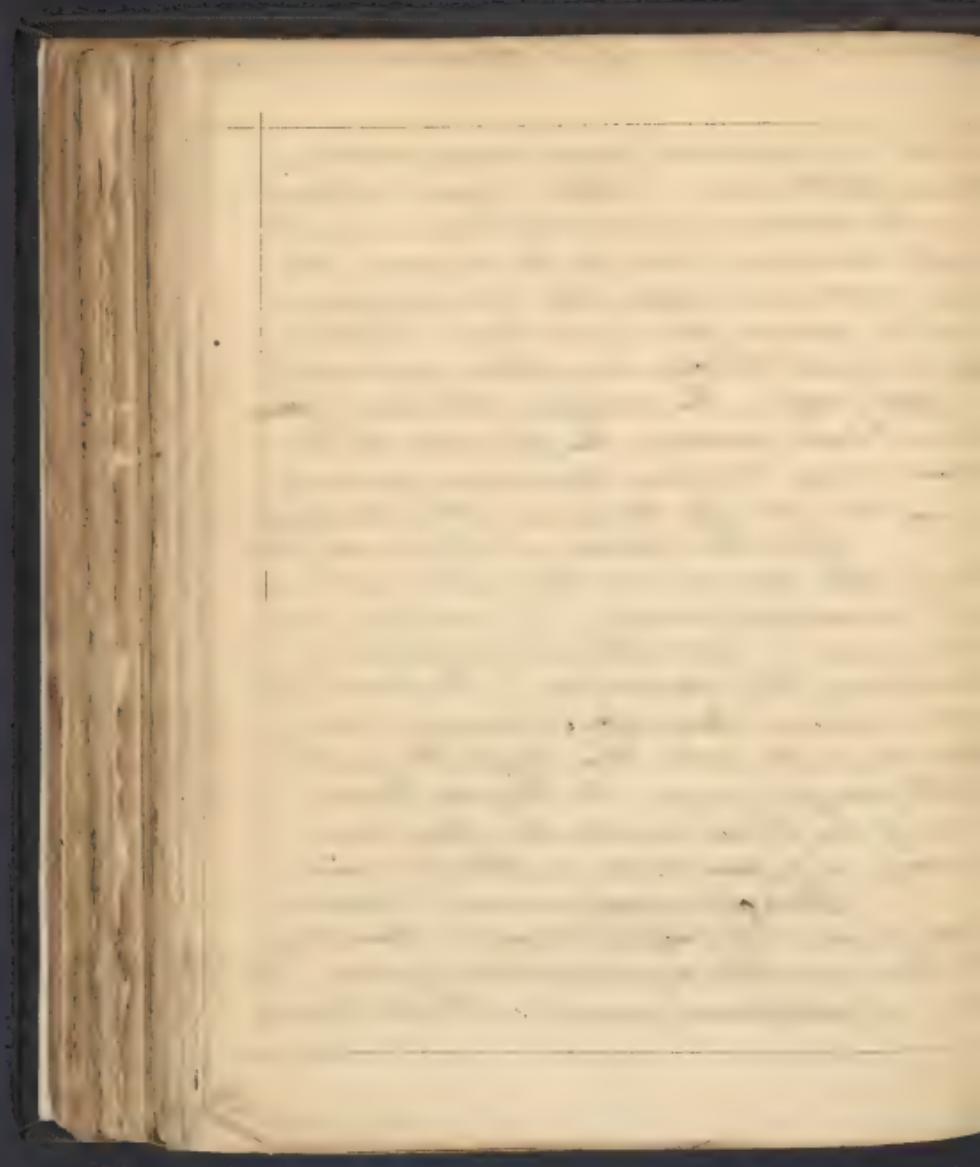
In the incipient stage of this disease



emetics are indicated; and will in most instances affect a cure. - Sulph. of zinc, tart. emet. or a combination of Specac. and Calomel, are the articles ordinarily used for this purpose. - To derive proper advantage, from this remedy, it ought to operate four or five times. - Happily (says Dr. Rush) children are seldom injured by a little except in the formation of this clasp of vesicles. I have, observed the formation of this disease many hundred times and frequently in my own family, by means of this remedy.

After this disease is fully purged. Blood letting, both general and local, is the first and most important remedy. - The quantity to be drawn must be left to the judgment and discretion of the practitioner. - Dr. Rush drew twelve ounces of blood at one bleedings, in one day, from a son of Mr. John Carol, then in the fourth year of his age. - Dr. Physick bled a child of but three months old, three times in one day. Life was saved in both these cases.

Although many eminent Physicians prefer small, but frequent, to copious bloodletting, yet, there are others equally distinguished, who bleed ad deliquum animi. - I think, however,

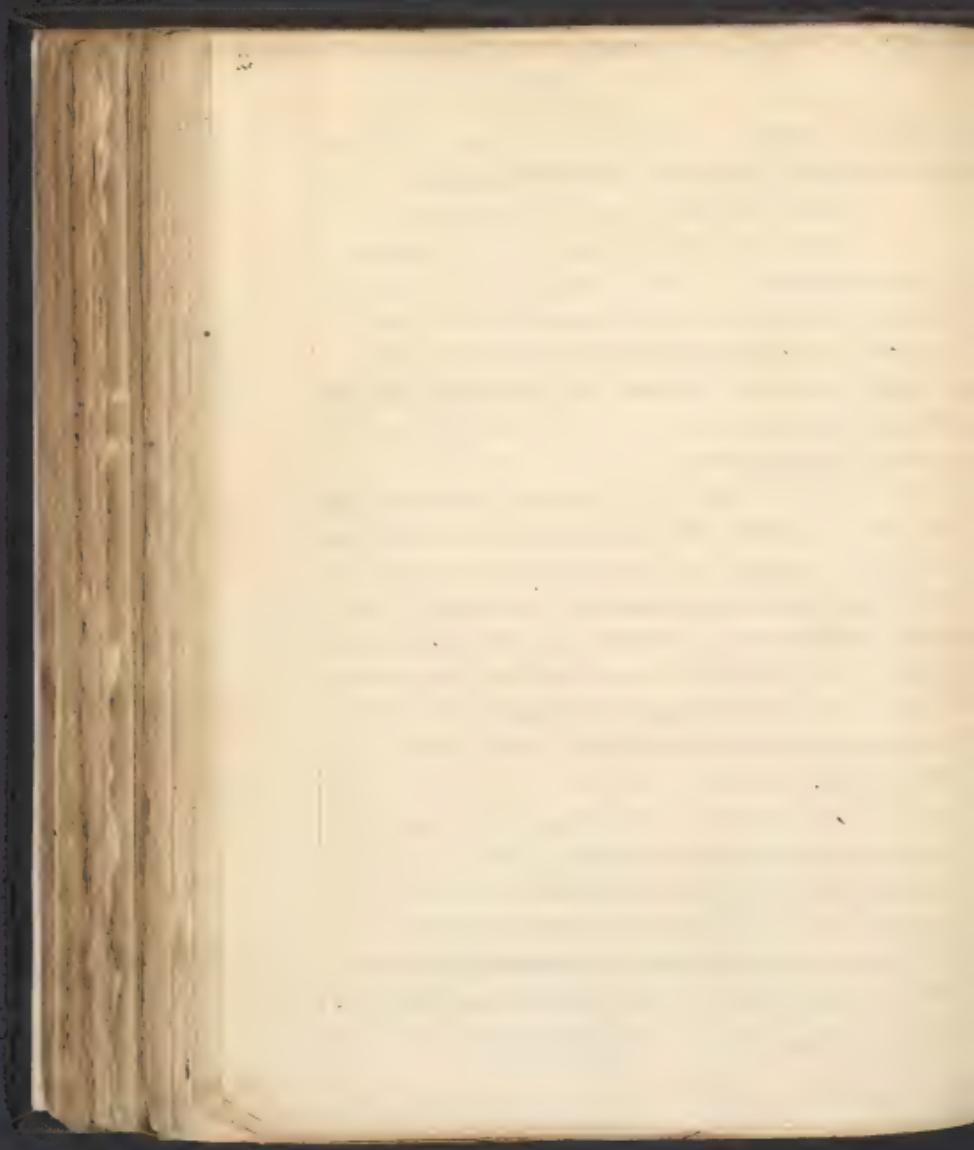


that the former practice is the safest, and so far as my limited experience has extended, I have found it very successful.

After the system has been relieved by bloodletting, it will be necessary to exhibit emetics, but at small doses, and at regular intervals. — They will have a powerful tendency to overcome opism, as well to expel the false membrane or viscous matter from the canal of respiration.—

If these first means are not sufficient to arrest the progress of the disease, it will be necessary to have recourse to blisters, and sweatings. — They may be applied either to the front or back of the neck, to the breast, or to the extremities, as circumstances may indicate. They act by producing a counter irritation on the surface of the body.

The tepid bath may be used with signal advantage during the first period of this disease. — This is a favourite remedy with the present professor of the institutes and practice of medicine; and I know from my own experience that it



produces the deepest effect. - It diminishes irritation, relaxes the spasms, and promotes a determination of the fluids to the surface.

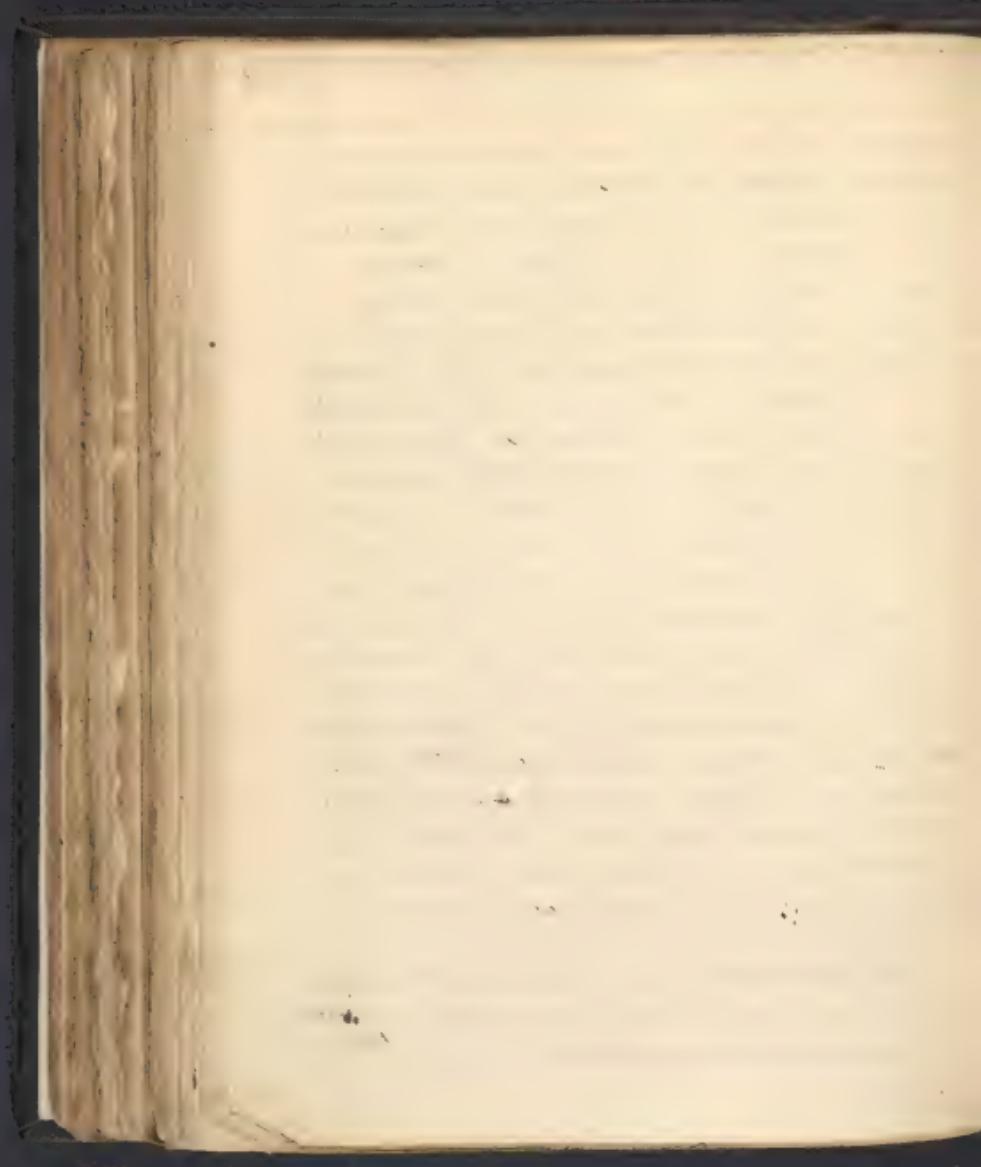
The inspiration of the aqueous vapour which is exhaled from the bath, may act too as an emollient and efficacious diaphoretic of the viscous matter in the trachea.

M. Albert places great reliance, on the use of emollient fumigations. - So thoroughly convinced was he of its utility, that he constructed a machine to facilitate its application to the seat of the disease. -

In protracted cases Calomel purges have been used with advantage. -

There is another class of medicines strongly recommended. - At the head of these may be ranked the antispasmodics such as ipecacuado - Sulphuric Ether - oil succini, and aqua ammonia. - When the patient is weak and delicate, or there is a disposition in the disease to assume a typhoic form, these remedies may be used with great success. -

Diaphoretics and expectorants may be sometimes exhibited as useful auxiliaries.

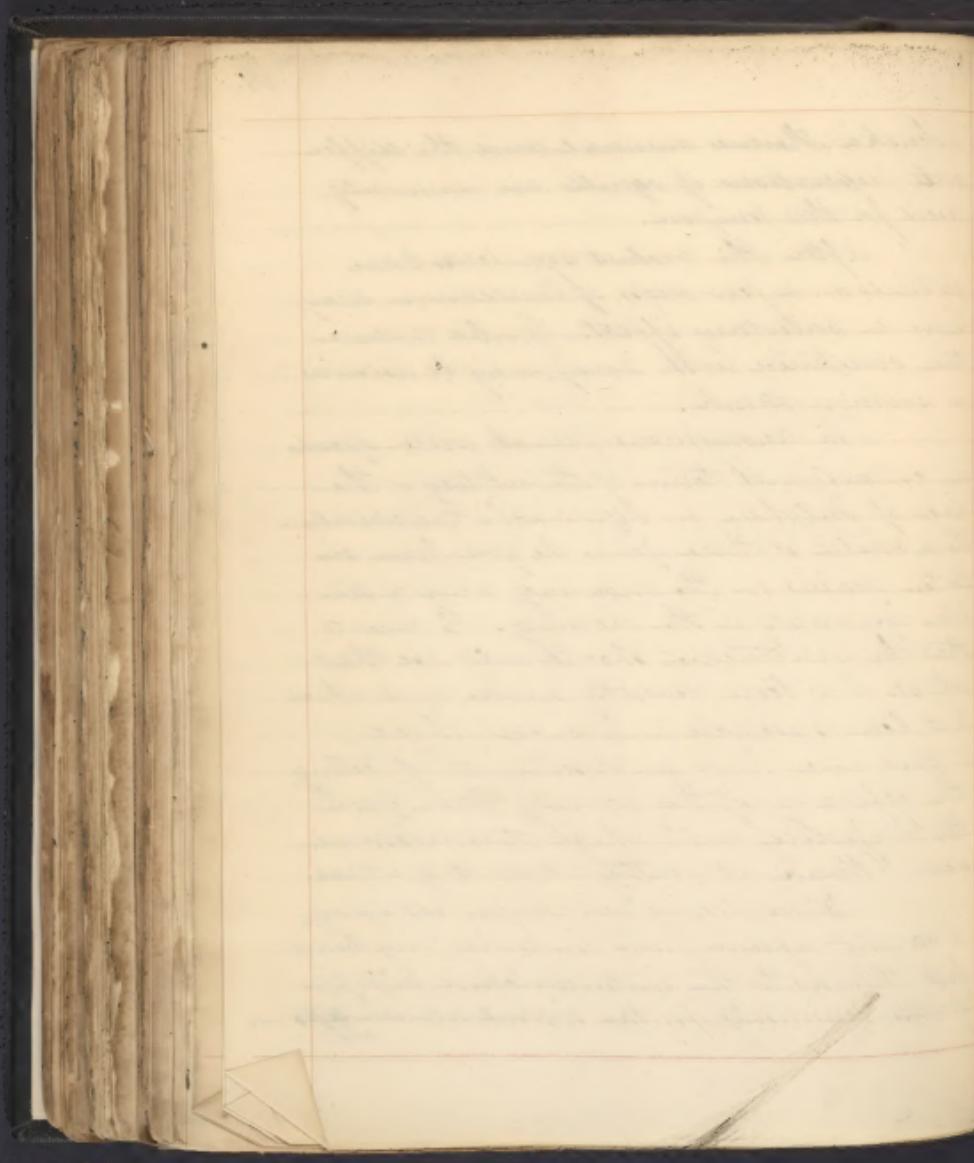


such a severe mineral, and the different preparations of squills are commonly used for this purpose.

After the violent symptoms have subsided, a few dragees of laudanum, or any have a salutary effect.—Garlic or onion tea sweetened with honey, may be used as a common drink.

An anonymous French writer speaks in extravagant terms of the utility of the liver of Sulphur, in Symancic tracheitis. To a child of three years, he gives from six to ten grains in the morning, and a similar quantity in the evening. He directs that the concoction should only use that which has been decently made, and which has been preserved in a corked phial.—I have never had an opportunity of testing the efficacy of this remedy, still from the confidence with which it is recommended, I think it worthy at least of a trial.

Before closing my imperfect paper, I cannot refrain from tendering my heart-felt thanks to the distinguished professors of this University, for the signal assistance



which I have derived from them in their  
several branches.— That their future lives  
may be as prosperous and happy as their  
past has been useful is the sincere wish  
of their

Obliged Servt.  
The Author

